

INTRA-LABORATORY CORRESPONDENCE

OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY

March 1, 1961

To: J. A. Swartout

I have discussed the observed increase in particulate air contamination at the Laboratory with Doyle Davis of Applied Health Physics and have been assured that the trend was under surveillance. The high particle count observed in November is attributed to three things:

- (1) Four ruptured slugs were pushed from the Graphite Reactor with an attendant increase in stack effluent activity.
- (2) The finishing filters in the Graphite Reactor filter house were inspected, found to be slightly damaged, and replaced.
- (3) A faulty filter was discovered in a filter bank of the central gas cleaning facility at the 3039 stack.

Any of these circumstances may have contributed to the observed particle increase; however, gamma spectrometry indicated that the activity on the gummed paper fall-out trays was primarily I-131.

Recent data, as shown by the following table, indicate that the situation has been corrected.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Particles per 1000 cu ft of air</u>	<u>Particles per sq ft</u>
November	3.0	60
December	0.32	10.9
January	0.78	5.2

In November, Health Physics informed the Operations Division of the unusual particle situation existing.

F. R. Bruce

FRB:mb

cc: D. M. Davis
W. H. Jordan
K. Z. Morgan
A. M. Weinberg

This document has been approved for release
to the public by:

David R. Hamlin 2/16/96
Technical Information Officer Date
ORNL Site

Oak Ridge Health Study Document Summary Form

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ABSTRACT:

This is a memo notice of increase in air contamination due to four slug ruptures, filters in filter house were damaged, and faulty filter in a filter bank. For example in November, 1960 indicate 3 particles per 1000 cubic feet where 60 particles per square feet are being released.

REVIEWER: *ym*

DATE REVIEWED: *3/8/96*